

VOL. IV--NO. 291.

NORFOLK, VA., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1900.

THREE CENTS PER COPY.

LATEST NEWS OF THE WORLD BY TELEGRAPH AND CABLE. { CONTINUED ON PAGE 11.

LORD ROBERTS
STILL PAUSESStores, Re-Mounts and Fresh
Troops Stream Toward Him.

THE BOERS CONCENTRATING

Gathering in Front of the British Army to Resist an Advance—Lord Roberts Willing to Give Them Time to Assemble all Their Men in Order to Deliver a Smashing Blow Effectively—A Round Robin in Favor of the Annexation of the Transvaal.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

London, March 7.—4:15 a. m.—Lord Roberts still pauses in the neighborhood of Osonfontein, while stores, re-mounts and fresh troops stream toward him from the Cape. The British position also continues to improve in the minor spheres of the campaign. Natal is clear of Boers, and Cape Colony is nearly so. The Boers seemingly are pursuing the course commended by the strategists, and are concentrating to resist the British main army. Various messages from correspondents with Lord Roberts report that the enemy are increasing continually on his front, extending as one correspondent wires, eight miles, and as another says, 18 miles. The lowest estimate of their number gives the Boers from 8,000 to 10,000 men, with smaller bodies moving north and south of the British lines. Each army is on both sides of the Modder River. Although the Boers have mounted eight guns on the tops of kopjes and appear to be too far away for inspection, the British scouts report that they are diligently using pick and shovel.

Military opinion is that their present position merely screens more easily defended ones deeper in the region. It is suggested that Lord Roberts is quite willing to give the Boers time to assemble all their men in order to deliver a smashing blow effectively.

A ROUND ROBIN.

The round robin in favor of the annexation of the Transvaal and the Free State, which is being promoted among the supporters of the government in the House of Commons, continues to receive significance. The signatories of the memorial to Mr. Balfour affirm that the time has arrived for plain specification inside and outside of Parliament, and that Lord Salisbury's words are being construed into a pledge against annexation, and Lord Roberts' proclamation into a promise of no confiscation of Boer property.

The Transvaal agency at Brussels threatens a rising of the Cape Dutch in the event of annexation, though why the Dutch should rise then rather than now is not explained.

A QUIETING EFFECT.

Orange River, Cape Colony, March 6.—The recent British victories have had a wonderfully quieting effect upon the rebel Dutch, many of whom in the neighborhood of Douglas are reported disheartened and about returning to their homes.

The command in the neighborhood of Britstown has been given carte blanche by President Steyn to raise as many recruits and to do as much damage as possible.

The rebels in the neighborhood of Kenhardt are particularly aggressive, acting on the supposition that the troops of Lord Roberts are fully occupied in the Free State.

BOERS IN FULL RETREAT.

London, March 6.—2:05 p. m.—The Boers in Northern Cape Colony are in full retreat to the Orange Free State. The possession of Stormberg puts General Gatacre in railroad communication with General Clements at Colesberg, for, though the Boers partially wrecked the railroad, it is understood that it can be quickly repaired, and thus the entrance of additional British troops into the Free State will be greatly facilitated.

The position gained by General Brabant at Dordrecht is reported to be exceedingly strong. According to the Times' correspondent the Boer numbers alone enabled them to retreat from Dordrecht, practically unhindered.

He also reports a violation of the white flag by the Boers, and that they deliberately fired, at close range, on a stretcher party.

THE LADYSMITH GARRISON.

General White's garrison has begun to leave Ladysmith, and is arriving at the Modder River camp, where the troops will remain several days, after which they will go further South. They are emaciated and exhausted, and say the road to Colenso presents scenes that exceed in horror those depicted in Dante's "Inferno." Dead men and animals are lying, mutilated and putrefied, in the trenches formerly occupied by the Boers, and fill the air with a sickening stench. In cases where hurried burials had been attempted the rains have washed the earth away and out of the earth stick ghastly legs and arms of dead burghers.

WHAT FREE STATERERS WILL DO.

A dispatch from Osonfontein says that, according to the Boer prisoners, another important British success will cause President Steyn to flee to Pretoria, leaving a provisional government at Bloemfontein, which is likely to make peace overtures, those Free Staters not wishing for peace trucking into the Transvaal and there helping to make a stand which most of the British military critics now point out will constitute the most difficult and deciding feature of the war.

FEVER STRICKEN LADYSMITH.
Surgeon Treves cables from Ladysmith that the condition of the town is

most deplorable, and that there are 800 cases of typhoid fever. Lavish supplies of comforts are now in the place, however.

SEVERE FIGHTING.

Dordrecht, March 5.—Following yesterday's success, General Brabant again engaged the Boers to-day with two regiments and a battery of guns. There was some smart fighting this morning, the British losing five or six men, capturing the Boer fort and thus vastly improving their position. The Boers fought tenaciously, contesting every inch of the ground, but ultimately they retreated suddenly, carrying off their guns and wagons. A mounted force pursued them, but the result is not yet known. The British casualties during the two days were twelve or thirteen killed and thirty wounded. The Boer losses are unknown. Throughout the arduous fighting and severe fatigue the Colonials have behaved splendidly.

"BOBS" HEARD FROM.

London, March 6.—The War Office has received the following dispatch from Lord Roberts:

"Osonfontein, March 6.—General Gatacre occupied Stormberg yesterday. The lines of railway north and west will now be repaired. General Clements is at Joubert's Siding station, beyond Colesberg. The Duke of Marlborough, with the Oxford Company of the Imperial Yeomanry, has left Cape Town for Naauwpoort.

"General Buller reports Natal now practically clear of the enemy, and that he cannot hear of any formed body of them anywhere. The Boers left some ambulances full of their sick, from which the mules had been taken for transport service.

BOER CAMP ATTACKED.

Ladysmith, Saturday, March 3.—Three regiments of cavalry reconnoitering northwards to-day, saw a body of Boers behind Popworth hill. Two long trains, which were ready to leave promptly moved before the troops reached them, and the Boers blew up a culvert behind them as they went. The British passed a large body of Boers in the vicinity of Popworth. The Boers opened a heavy rifle fire, the British field guns replying. The British did not press the attack, and the Boer fire ceased on the British retreating. The Boer camps showed many evidences of the presence of women.

MEMENTOS.

An auction was held of things brought from the Boer camps. A bunch of grapes sold for 25 shillings, a plate of tomatoes brought 15 shillings, a dozen matches brought 15 shillings, a package of cigarettes 25 shillings, fifty cigars brought £10 and a quarter of a pound of plug tobacco 45 shillings.

BOER POSITION LOCATED.

Osonfontein, March 3.—The Boer position has now been fairly located as about four miles to the British front and extending about eight miles. The Boer right, on a high long mountain on the north side of the river, was shelled by General French this morning.

Apparently the space between the mountain and the river has been entrenched. South of the river the Boer lines cover more ground. A few days ago their left rested on the high kopje standing in the middle of the plain. They have now been extended two miles further south, while six small kopjes stand in the plain between the centre and the left and between the centre and the river, and from a bridge behind which the Boers move unseen. The weakness of the whole position, however, is that it can easily be turned in either direction. The country is flat

Continued on Page 11.

A WOMAN MURDERED.

LADY FULLER, COLORED, KILLED BY HER LOVER, WHO ESCAPES.

At 11 o'clock this morning Lady Fuller, a colored woman about 25 years old, was found on the door steps of her house, at the corner of Nicholson and Howard streets, bleeding to death from a wound inflicted by her lover. He stabbed her in the back between the hip bones and left her to die from loss of blood. The man's name is not made public yet, as he has not been arrested.

As soon as the station-house was notified of the crime by Sergeant Dalton the patrol wagon was sent for the woman and Dr. Speight was summoned to attend her, but she died before aid could be rendered and her body was carried to the City Morgue.

There were three women who heard the fatal quarrel between the Fuller woman and her lover. They are Minnie and Louisa Cartwright and a woman named Johnson. When the murderer is apprehended they will appear as witnesses.

WOULD-BE BURGLAR SHOT.

ATTEMPTING A WOOD STREET RESIDENCE HE MEETS A BULLET.

About 2:15 o'clock this morning Officer Mayo saw James Johnson, a negro, trying the doors of several residences on Wood street. He was ordered to halt, and refusing to obey the command the officer fired, the bullet striking the negro in the small of the back. Dr. Speight examined the man at the station house and said he may live.

DR. CHAS. R. VANCE.

THE GOVERNOR APPOINTS HIM QUARANTINE OFFICER.

(Special to Virginian-Pilot.)
Richmond, Va., March 6.—The Governor to-night appointed Dr. Charles R. Vance Quarantine Officer for Elizabeth River District.

Dr. Norfleet was his most formidable opponent.

A DULL DAY
IN WASHINGTONThe Senate Adopts Conference
Vote on the Financial Bill.

SENATOR BUTLER'S DODGE

Senator Allen, of Nebraska, Denounces the Republican Measure as a Scheme for Bureaucratic Control—The Quay Case Again Discussed—A Public Building for Wheeling, W. Va.—Senate Committee on Naval Affairs Favors the Construction of a Pacific Cable.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Washington, March 6.—Not probably in the history of the Senate was there ever shown so little real interest in the final vote of a great measure as was manifested to-day in the vote on the conference report of the financial bill. The report was before the Senate for nearly two weeks, yet only four speeches were delivered upon it, including Mr. Aldrich's explanation of the changes made in the Senate bill by the conferees. To-day discussion ceased on the bill fifteen minutes before

ONE HUNDRED
MEN ENTOMBEDThe Greatest Mine Horror in the
History of West Virginia.

FIFTY BODIES TAKEN OUT

It is Believed That Over One Hundred Men Were at Work in the Mines at Red Ash, on the New River, Where the Explosion Occurred—Distressing Scenes at the Mouth of the Shaft as the Work of Rescue Proceeded—Relief Parties From Great Distances.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Charleston, W. Va., March 6.—The greatest mining horror in the New River region occurred at Red Ash about 8 o'clock this morning by an explosion in the drift mine of the Red Ash Coal Company. The mine was full of men and the explosion occurred near the entrance, which was closed by falling slate. A relief crew was quickly at work. The working capacity of the mine is 175 men, and it was being worked to its full capacity to fill rush orders. It is believed over 100 men were at work.



LIEUT. GEN. FRENCH AND MAP SHOWING ABRAHAM'S KRAAL.

Lieutenant General J. D. P. French, the dashing British cavalry general who relieved Kimberley, is now doing reconnaissance work for General Lord Roberts in the Orange Free State. He recently found the Boers in force at Abraham's kraal, which, as shown on the war maps, is a group of three kopjes situated at the junction of Kaal spruit with Modder river. It is a natural point of concentration, which the Boers could make exceedingly strong, and is about 30 miles east of Paardeberg.

the time fixed for the vote, and the Senate actually began the consideration of minor bills on the calendar to consume time. The conference report was agreed to by a vote of 41 to 26, the report thus having a majority of 15.

Early in the session discussion of the Quay case was resumed by Mr. Simon, of Oregon, who replied to the speech made yesterday by Mr. Carter, of Montana. The speech precipitated a debate on Oregon politics, in which Mr. Simon defended Mr. Corbett from the attack made upon him by the Montana Senator. Mr. Allen, of Nebraska, closed the debate on the financial bill in a characteristic speech.

A FLAT DENIAL.

Mr. Simon, calling up the Quay resolution, said Mr. Carter had made the distinct charge that Mr. Corbett had corrupted the Legislature and defeated the desire of the people of Oregon. He stamped this as "unjust and untrue." He maintained that Mr. Corbett was anxious the Legislature should organize, that a Senator might be elected in line with the policy of the incoming administration. He asserted that the failure of the Oregon House to organize was due to former Senator Mitchell, and to him alone. Mr. Simon said Mr. Quay, as a member of the Senate, was paired against Mr. Corbett. "If we are now to send Mr. Quay," he inquired, "how will it be possible for the Senate to atone for the wrong done Mr. Corbett?"

CHARGE AND RETORT.

Mr. Carter replied. He had not spoken with a view to making a personal assault upon Mr. Corbett, but

Continued on Page 8.

itself on the grief-stricken crowds they reached their dead and dying in the wrecked shaft, and the work of attempted rescue was organized with extreme difficulty. Of the first twelve men brought to the surface five were dead or died within a few minutes, and several of the others were horribly burned or bruised.

As the work proceeded and the dead bodies were brought up one by one the scenes at the mouth of the shaft became distressing in the extreme. Shrieking, frantic women and children impeded the rescuers and added to the horror of the wreck.

WORST EXPLOSION EVER KNOWN

Fire Creek, W. Va., March 6.—The Red Ash mine explosion is the most disastrous ever known in this district.

Although the most heroic work of the rescuing party has been going on incessantly all day, it is impossible to-night to estimate the full extent of the loss of life and property. More than fifty dead bodies have already been taken out, and the number of the dead may reach seventy-five or more. It is thought to-night that at least forty-five miners are yet entombed in the wrecked mine.

ASSISTANCE RENDERED.

Every assistance possible was rendered by the railway company and by the adjoining mining towns. Relief parties from great distances arrived as soon as possible. State Mine Inspector Pinkney with a corps of experts and many workmen has been on the ground during the day rendering all assistance possible and devoting his attention more toward relief than an official investigation as to the cause of the disaster.

The mine officials had all the men available at work in trying to clear away the debris and rescue the entombed men. The managers and bosses of all the mines in this district came to the scene as soon as possible and joined in the work of rescue. It is impossible to describe the amount of work done by this concentrated army of men, but they were greatly impeded because of the extent of the enormous blockade at the entrance to the drift. The large heavy side tires of the entrance were blown out to some distance, together with a lot of heavy timbers. Even mules were blown out some distance.

ENTRANCE BLOCKADED.

The force of such an explosion caused an immense falling of the slate and other debris, so that the entrance was filled up for a great distance, and the difficulties in digging through it caused a delay in the work of rescue. As many men as could work at one time were digging away with all their might, and were relieved in short relays by others, so as to expedite the work of rescuing as much as possible.

FIRST BODIES RECOVERED.

The first successful strike of the rescuers was about 10 o'clock a. m., when ten bodies were recovered. Seven of them were already dead, and the other three were dying. As the miners were located at different places in the drift, and the explosion caused the falling slate to blockade the rooms in different parts of the mine, the work of rescue met with one great obstruction after another.

At the mouth of the mine the scene was beyond description, the wives and children and the neighbors of those who were known to be entombed were there in full force, and their anxiety and distress were most intense. While they were all seeking to help those who were rescued, and to get the mine re-opened, yet these bereaved people were for the most part in the way of the rescuers, and had to be held back from the entrance.

The mine is one of the largest in West Virginia, and was very heavily timbered in the different drifts. It was for this reason feared that those who had not been killed by falling debris at the time of the explosion would be pinioned by these connected timbers and suffer death from suffocation.

MACHINERY DEMOLISHED.

Air was forced into the mine by engines on the surface, which were kept working after the explosion, but it was found that air could be pumped into the drift for only a short distance, as the coal, stone and earth shut off all possibility of reaching the interior. The pumps and all other machinery in the mine were demolished so that everything had to be done through temporary arrangements on the surface.

Telegrams were sent to Montgomery, Charleston and other places for physicians, nurses and caskets, but during the greater part of the day there was only use for the caskets. All work was stopped in the surrounding mines, and the people within a radius of many miles assembled on the grounds of the Red Ash Company.

HAD THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED AN HOUR

later many more would have been entombed in the mines.

THE ESTIMATES OF THE NUMBER IN THE

mines when the explosion occurred are based on the number who entered at 7 o'clock. The manager stated that by 8 o'clock or 8:30 a. m. there would have been twice as many men in the mines.

CALAMITY REACHES ALL.

The population of this mining village is only 500. All are miners, and the calamity will reach almost every little house in the mining town. Food was liberally supplied to the relays of workmen in the rescuing party, but many of the women who could get no word of comfort refused to eat or to go to their homes.

AN INVESTIGATION.

Charleston, W. Va., March 6.—Chief Mine Inspector J. W. Paul, Governor Atkinson and others left here to-night for the scene of the disaster to make an investigation. Mr. Paul stated that the mine had been in excellent condition, and if the explosion was caused by fire damp, as reported, he was at a loss to account for its presence. Mine Inspector Edward Pinkney, of Montgomery, was immediately wired to begin an investigation.

THE MINE WAS LAST INSPECTED ON

October 24th, 1899, when it was found to be perfectly safe. The Red Ash mine was operated by the Red Ash Coal Company, composed of J. Fred Effinger, of Staunton, Va., and other Staunton

Continued on Page 8.

PEOPLE CENSURE
THE GOVERNORWas Too Hasty in Approving an
Obnoxious Bill.

NEW LANDGRABBERS' BILL

Property Holders Displeased With the Former and the Poorer Classes With the Latter—Exchange of Compliments in the House of Delegates—Many Candidates Talked About for Governor—Supporters of Air Line Bill to Visit Cuba—Supreme Court.

(Special to Virginian-Pilot.)

Richmond, Va., March 6.—The action of the Governor in signing the bill to appoint commissioners of valuation in every county and city in the State has been the chief topic of conversation here to-day, and many unkind things have been said concerning the Executive. He is blamed for not giving the delegations who were opposed to it an opportunity to be heard on the subject before affixing his signature to such a far-reaching measure.

Of course, those who are opposed to the bill are men of property. It cuts but little figure among the poorer classes, who are not bothered with stocks, bonds and money in bank.

NE WLAND-GRABBERS' BILL.

This class, however, is not at all pleased with the new land-grabbers' bill, which was signed to-day by the Governor. The claim is made that the Legislature has not improved that much-abused law at all, despite the fact that a majority came here pledged to vote for its repeal.

LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS.

Both houses were in session to-day but a short time, and no business, of course, was transacted. There were many exchanges of courtesies, however, the members that remain now being in high spirits at the thought of returning to their homes, from which they have been so long absent.

THANKS, ETC.

Soon after the House met this afternoon Captain R. S. Parks, of Page, offered a resolution thanking the clerk of the House for his faithful and efficient services, and it was so amended as to include all his assistants. This resolution was unanimously adopted.

A SILVER SERVICE.

Hon. George Y. Hunley, of Mathews, was next recognized, and, in a highly ornate speech, presented to Chairman Parks a handsome silver service, consisting of five pieces, on behalf of his colleagues on the Committee on General Laws. Captain Parks made an eloquent and feeling response, which was loudly applauded by the House.

Mr. Whitehead, of Norfolk, made a speech in warmest praise of the Committee on General Laws, and its distinguished chairman.

Hon. William B. Bowles, of Salem, presented a resolution, which was unanimously adopted, thanking Speaker Saunders for the ability, fairness and impartiality with which he has presided over the deliberations of the House.

Hon. S. L. Kelley, of Richmond city, spoke eloquently to the resolution, as did also several other members.

Mr. Hunley offered a resolution thanking the press of the city for its courtesies, and for the fairness with which it had dealt with the proceedings of the body.

Mr. Todd presented, through a resolution, the thanks of the House to the clergy of the city for attending upon and offering prayer at its sessions and Mr. Churchman likewise remembered the pages for the faithful discharge of their onerous duties.

Judge Williams, of Orange, chairman of the Committee on Federal Relations, made a very witty speech, in which he said that, although the chairman of a most important committee, his colleagues had not even so much as presented him with a bag of peanuts.

Chairman Bland, of Portsmouth, called attention to the fact that he had also been forgotten by his associates, and that he had a nice speech of thanks bottled up for the occasion.

The Senate merely met and adjourned until to-morrow, at which time both bodies will adjourn sine die.

CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR.

Nearly two-thirds of the members of the two branches have already gone home, but there is considerable gossip to be heard as to who will probably be the next Governor.

Capt. R. C. Marshall, of Portsmouth, who is in the city to-day, has practically decided to enter the race.

"I am not quite ready to state positively that I will be a candidate," said he, "but this much I can state, and

Continued on Page 8.

OTHER TELEGRAPH PAGE 11

CLASSIFICATION OF NEWS.

BY DEPARTMENTS.

Telegraph News—Pages 1 and 11.
Local News—Pages 2, 3, 5 and 6.
Editorial—Page 4.
Virginia News—Page 8.
North Carolina News—Page 7.
Portsmouth News—Pages 10.
Berkley News—Page 11.
Markets—Page 12.
Shipping—Page 9.
Real Estate—Page 12.